

Claims

1. A method for providing an instance in a conditional access system, the method comprising the steps of:

selecting a digital bit stream from a plurality of digital bit streams;

5 encrypting the selected digital bit stream according to a first level encryption method to provide an encrypted instance;

combining the encrypted instance with the plurality of digital bit streams to provide a partially-encrypted bit stream; and

transmitting the partially-encrypted bit stream.

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2. The method of claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of digital bit streams includes a packet identifier, and wherein the selecting step selects the digital bit stream by identifying a predetermined packet identifier.

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3. The method of claim 2, wherein all of the selected digital bit stream is encrypted according to the first level encryption method.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of digital bit streams includes a packet identifier, and wherein the selecting step selects the digital bit stream by identifying a plurality of predetermined packet identifiers.

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5. The method of claim 4, wherein a portion of the selected digital bit stream is encrypted, wherein the encrypted portion and an unencrypted portion of the selected digital stream are combined with the plurality of digital bit streams.

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6. The method of claim 5, wherein the selected digital bit stream is a program.

7. The method of claim 5, wherein the selected digital bit stream is an elementary digital bit stream.

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8. The method of claim 1, wherein the selecting step includes selecting more than one digital bit stream from the plurality of digital bit streams, wherein the more than one digital bit stream is identified by predetermined packet identifiers.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein each of the more than one digital bit stream includes a distinct packet identifier, wherein the selecting step selects the more than one digital bit stream by identifying at least one of the distinct packet identifiers.

5 10. The method of claim 8, wherein a portion of each of the more than one digital bit stream is encrypted according to the first level encryption method.

11. The method of claim 8, wherein all of the more than one digital bit stream is encrypted according to the first level encryption method.

10 12. The method of claim 8, wherein at least one of a portion of each of the more than one digital bit stream and all of the more than one digital bit stream is encrypted according to the first level encryption method.

15 13. A method for providing a program in a conditional access system, the method comprising the steps of:

selecting a program from a transport stream;
encrypting a portion of the program;
combining the encrypted portion and the remaining portion of the program with
20 the transport stream; and
transmitting the combined stream.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the program includes a plurality of elementary bit streams, and wherein each of the plurality of elementary bit streams includes a plurality of packets, each packet having a packet header.

25 15. The method of claim 14, wherein the packet header includes a packet identifier identifying the packet as a member of a packet stream, wherein the packet identifier is indicative of at least one of a video stream, an audio stream, and a data stream.

30 16. The method of claim 15, wherein the encrypted portion includes at least one of the plurality of packets associated with the video stream.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the at least one of the plurality of packets is selected by the packet identifier indicative of the video stream.

18. The method of claim 15, wherein the encrypted portion includes at least one of the 5 plurality of packets associated with the audio stream.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the at least one of the plurality of packets is selected by the packet identifier indicative of the audio stream.

10 20. The method of claim 15, wherein the encrypted portion includes at least one of the plurality of packets associated with the data stream.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein the at least one of the plurality of packets is selected by the packet identifier indicative of the data stream.

15 22. The method of claim 15, wherein the encrypted portion includes at least one of the plurality of packets associated with at least one of the video stream, the audio stream, and the data stream.

20 23. A method for providing a program in a conditional access system, the method comprising the steps of:

selecting a digital bit stream from a plurality of digital bit streams;
encrypting a percentage of the selected digital bit stream;
combining the encrypted percentage, the unencrypted percentage, and the plurality 25 of digital bit streams to provide a partially encrypted bit stream; and
transmitting the partially encrypted bit stream.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein the encrypted percentage comprises at least one of a video packet, an audio packet, and a data packet.

30 25. The method of claim 24, wherein the at least one video packet, audio packet, and data packet are selected by identifying a packet identifier.

26. The method of claim 23, wherein the percentage varies over time.

27. The method of claim 23, wherein the percentage is selected based on content.